

# NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

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***For Immediate Release***

**OCTOBER 2, 2006**

**LAWRENCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOOKKEEPER  
PLEADS GUILTY TO EMBEZZLEMENT**

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on September 29, 2006, **CYNTHIA CREWELL**, age 53 of Bridgeport, Illinois, pled guilty to the offense of Theft Concerning A Program Receiving Federal Funds. The offense carries a total statutory maximum possible punishment of up to ten years imprisonment, a fine of up to \$250,000, three years supervised release, and mandatory restitution. Sentencing is scheduled for September 8, 2007.

As part of the plea **CYNTHIA CREWELL** admitted that she embezzled approximately \$55,169.13 while employed as the bookkeeper and financial officer at the Lawrence County Health Department from 2001 through 2005. She further admitted that she made unauthorized business credit card purchases of personal items and falsified medical insurance information to obtain greater coverage than what she was entitled to receive.

The investigation was conducted by the Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Illinois State Police and the Internal Revenue Service, Office of Criminal Investigations. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.